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(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: **GRIFFITS, John, Philip** [AU/AU]; 99a
Tallai Road, Tallai, Queensland 4213 (AU). **GRIFFITS,**
Yvonne, Sylvia [AU/AU]; P.O. Box 721, Main Beach,
QLD 4217 (AU).

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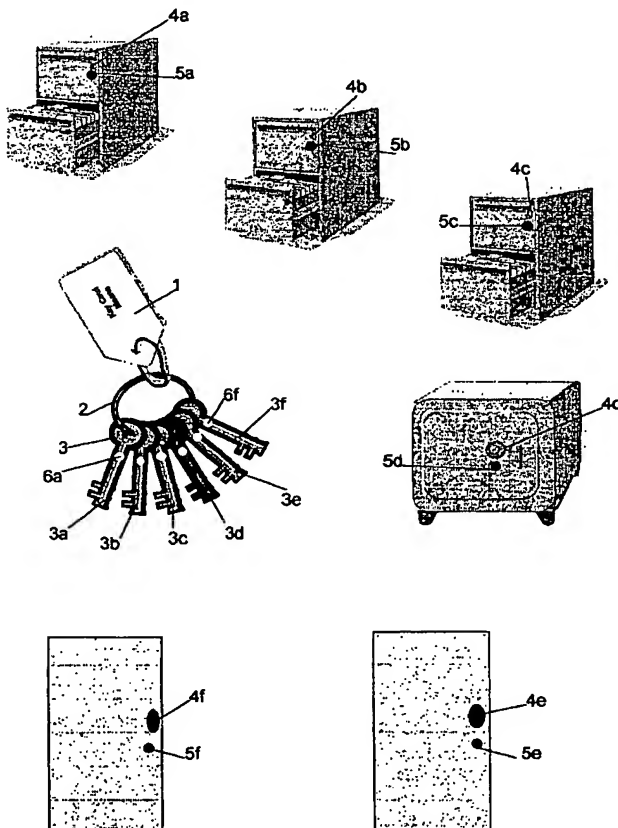
(74) Common Representative: **GRIFFITS, John, Philip**; 99a
Tallai Road, Tallai, Queensland 4213 (AU).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF KEYS FOR USE WITH LOCKS



(57) Abstract: The present invention describes a method for coupling electronically addressable and readable illumination means to one at least lock keys. Said illumination means may be used to identify key function and to select a particular key from a group of keys on a key grouping means (eg key ring). A novel key ring is described that may deliver power and electronic signals via conductor means to one at least keys.. The system is controlled by a key control means that is preferably provided in a key tag format. The invention provides scope to couple other electronic devices and functions to a key ring. A method of automatically attaching/detaching keys from a key ring is also described.



Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01029

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. 7: E05B 19/00, 49/00, 47/00 A44B 15/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU:IPC E05B 47/00, 49/00		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI : IPC E05B 19/00, A44B 15/00 and key, electronic, couple, attach, fix, connect, illuminate, decode, light, memory, display and so on		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 276 179 B (STRATTEC SECURITY CORPORATION) 21 August 2001 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	GB 2 356 426 A (GUESTKEY SOFTWARE LIMITED) 23 May 2001 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	WO 00/79078 A (INTERLOGIX, INC.) 28 December 2000 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 December 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 18 DEC 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer VENKAT IYER Telephone No : (02) 6283 2144

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 974 844 A (HARRELSON et al) 2 November 1999 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	DE 19654443 A (VOS VERKEHRS-OPTIMIERUNGS-SYSTEME G.m.b.H) 2 July 1998 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	WO 97/25503 A (SUPRA PRODUCTS, INC.) 17 July 1997 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	WO 96/23122 A (DAWALIBI) 1 August 1996 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	WO 94/01645 A (SMART LOCK LIMITED) 20 January 1994 Whole document	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No.98-409720/35, Class A85, JP 10169264 A (TOKAI RIKA DENKI KK) 23 June 1998 Abstract	1 - 38, 49 - 56
X	DE 20113769 U (LII) 31 January 2002 Whole document	39
X	WO 02/21958 A (DRAGONSLAYER INVESTMENTS INC.)21 March 2002 Whole document	58
X	DE 299 03 720 U (KRONENBERGER) 12 August 1999 Whole document	58

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01029

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

SEE EXTRA SHEET

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/01029

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1 to 35. It is considered that a method of coupling a device that includes an electronic means to at least one key comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 36 to 38. It is considered that a method of coupling an electronic means to at least one lock comprises a second "special technical feature".
3. Claims 39 defines a method of coupling at least one power conductor to at least one key grouping means
4. Claim 49 to 56 define methods of providing or reading information pertaining to electronic locks or keys
5. Claim 58 defines automatically attaching/detaching one at least key means to and/or from one at least key grouping means.

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01029

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
US 6276179	US 5433096	US 6035677	US 6367298
	US 6367299	US 6427504	US 2003051520
GB 2356426			
WO 0079078	AU 57572/00	CA 2377888	EP 1192326
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WO 9623122	AU 44900/96	BG 101795	BR 9606857
	CA 2211256	CN 1169173	CZ 9702388
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JP 10169264			
DE 20113769			
WO 200221958			
DE 29903720			
END OF ANNEX			